



Instructional Technology Newsline

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Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters>

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◆ Instructional Technology Update

National and state technology leaders and policymakers, TLCF directors, e-rate directors, and other key leaders met in Arlington last week to discuss details of the new federal Enhancing Education through Technology program and how it differs from previous technology initiatives. Following this national planning meeting was an institute to assist state technology directors in developing strategies for implementing the new legislation, with topics including technology planning, professional development, research and evaluation, and measuring the quality and impact of technology on student learning. Both forums allowed U.S. Department of Education

staff to gather feedback and advice toward establishing program rules. It was very gratifying to be included in the conversations. As more specific information is forthcoming, Instructional Technology staff will work on state rulemaking and keep schools informed as best we can. These are exciting and challenging times. –Deb

FY02 Instructional Technology Grant Programs

State Education Technology Grants

FY 2002 --

VIDEO grant recipients should plan to only receive 25% of their state grant amounts. Twenty percent was distributed when the VIDEO grants were approved, with the remaining five percent to be issued in May or June, whenever an FER is submitted and approved. TAG and IDL grant recipients can expect a payment later this month, equal to 25% of the approved state grant amounts. Note that all state grant funds should be obligated by May 1 and FERs submitted by May 15. FERs for TAG and VIDEO grants are now available online.

FY 2003 --

Final appropriations are dependent on the state's economy and have not been determined. Currently, the only funding available would be for TAG grants and second-year IDL grants. A test will be conducted this month to verify email addresses for next year's TAG grant applications. Districts should make sure the primary contact information is current and correct.

Federal Education Technology Grants

FY 2002 --

Second-year TLCF grant recipients can expect a payment later this month, equal to 25% of their approved grant amounts. Projects can continue through September 30. FERs can be submitted when funds have been expended or when activities are complete; they are due no later than October 15.

FY 2003 --

Little news to report other than the U.S. Department of Education has begun gathering information and feedback toward establishing rules for the "Enhancing Education through Technology" program. Although funding levels will not be finalized until April, Missouri expects to receive approximately \$9 million. For the formula grant, 50% funding is to be distributed via Title 1 formula. We thought that we could establish a minimum base amount, then apply the Title 1 formula in addition to the base. But recently found out that the funding has to be distributed based strictly on proportionate shares of funding under Part A of Title 1. Competitive grant details will be announced later as they become available to us.

To follow developments on the federal level, visit the NCLB web site at <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/> and Enhancing Education through Technology at <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/esea/nclb/partx.html>

TNP and eMINTS Programs

No news to report.

Census of Technology

2001 COT—

District reports are now online. Building reports should soon follow. See <http://www.dese.state.mo.us/computingcensus/2001/index.htm>

2002 COT –

The 2002 Census will be collected in April -- next month! Later this month we will conduct a test of email addresses. Be sure to review your login and submit privileges, and make changes where necessary. Go to <http://k12apps.dese.state.mo.us/webapps/logon.asp> and click on

[Downloadable Login Request Forms](#). Complete the form and fax it to the number listed on the form.

E-rate Program and Internet Filtering Requirement

E-Rate Notice Of Proposed Rule Making

The FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) about certain rules governing the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism, published in the February 19, 2002 Federal Register. The publication of the NPRM begins the period during which interested parties can file comments with the FCC on or before April 5, 2002 (45 days after the date of publication). Reply comments are due on or before May 6, 2002 (75 days after the date of publication). The NPRM asks a number of questions which fall under the general goals of:

- To consider changes that would fine-tune FCC rules to improve program operation;
- To ensure that the benefits of this universal service support mechanism for schools and libraries are distributed in a manner that is fair and equitable;
- To improve FCC oversight over this program to insure that the goals of section 254 are met without waste, fraud, or abuse.

Links to the NPRM are provided at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-02-8A1.pdf

<http://www.sl.universalservice.org/whatsnew/012002.asp#012902>

Missouri Statewide Buy of Filtering Software

To help schools reach compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), by July 1, 2002, the Department set aside FY02 education technology funds to subsidize Internet filtering solutions. Staff from the Department, State Library, and World Wide Technology met last month to review the returned RFPs. Districts should expect to receive a package on or around March 11 that will include information for each selected filtering solution and a "pre-enrollment" form that **must be completed and returned by March 29**. The data will help determine which products to subsidize. We hope to finalize plans by the end of April so schools can begin purchasing off the contract at the lower, subsidized prices as early as May.

Education Technology Planning

New State Education Technology Plan

The Missouri Education Technology Strategic Plan, 2002-2006 is near completion and will be posted on the Instructional Technology website by the end of this month.

State Approval of District Plans -- 2002 Cycle

Districts are required to have board-adopted and state-approved technology plans. The next review of district technology plans is scheduled for April 19, 2002. Plans must be submitted by no later than April 10 in order to be included in this wave of approval. Questions about technology planning or about being an evaluator should be directed to Kathy Parris in the Instructional Technology section.



State Study Shows High-tech Classrooms Produce Higher Test Scores

The third and fourth graders who use technology as a primary tool in their classroom scored significantly better than other students last year in all four subjects covered by the state's mandatory MAP tests, according to state education officials.

A recent analysis of the statewide eMINTS project also indicates that special needs students gained the most from the project's concentrated use of technology and new teaching strategies, said Commissioner of Education D. Kent King.

King held a news conference on February 27 at West Englewood Elementary School, in the North Kansas City School District, and announced the findings of an evaluation of the eMINTS project and its impact on students and teachers. The study was conducted by the Office of Social and

Economic Data analysis (OSED) at the University of Missouri-Columbia. For more information, visit the DESE Web site at www.dese.state.mo.us. The complete evaluation report about the eMINTS project is available online at <http://emints.more.net>



Madam President--Live Web Broadcast

--Submitted by Nancy Thompson Piringier, MOREnet Internet2 Program Manager

Mark your calendars and tune in for the live Web broadcast of "Madam President — a Forum on the Prospects of a First Woman President." The video streams will be available on March 3 and 4 at <http://www.umkc.edu/is/mts/mp/>. A stored archive of the forum events also will be made available.

The Truman Presidential Museum & Library and the University of Missouri-Kansas City Starr Symposium will bring together a number of scholars and politicians interested in the growth of women's participation in America's political leadership on March 3-4, 2002 at the University of Missouri-Kansas City campus. Speakers at the event will include former U.S. Representative Pat Schroeder, the longest serving woman in the history of the U.S. Congress; Eleanor Clift, contributing editor for Newsweek; and Marie C. Wilson, president and co-founder of the New York City-based White House Project. The forum is sponsored by the Harry S Truman Library Institute, UMKC Starr Symposium, White House Studies and the Missouri Humanities Council with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the State of Missouri.

MOREnet, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Internet2 and the Great Plains Network are assisting the Library in bringing the program to a nation-wide audience using video streaming. The program will be unicast using Windows Media player and will also be multicast using MPEG-2. Those Internet2 sites that are multicast-enabled will be able to take advantage of Internet2's capabilities of delivering high-fidelity stereo audio (CD-quality) and broadcast-quality video. Targeted primarily at high school and higher education audiences, a set of online teaching materials for grades 4 and above is also available.

The Starr Symposium, named after Martha Jane Starr, is funded by the Family Study Center Endowment and overseen by the Starr Education Committee. The annual symposium began in 1993 as a forum to address women's issues and family concerns. Organizers bring nationally known experts in women's issues together with community leaders to examine ways to eliminate barriers that women face.

For additional information about the Madam President program and instructions for accessing the event through the Web visit: <http://www.trumanlibrary.org/madam.htm>.

Teaching Materials for Students

<http://www.trumanlibrary.org/madamteach.htm>

For More Information

Truman Presidential Library & Museum

<http://www.trumanlibrary.org>

University of Missouri-Kansas City Starr Symposium

<http://www.umkc.edu/starr/>

Internet2

<http://www.internet2.edu>

Great Plains Network

<http://www.greatplains.net>

MOREnet

<http://www.more.net>

University of Missouri- Kansas City

<http://www.umkc.edu>



Show-Me TechKnowledge Day

Fifteen educational technology exhibits from various programs and school districts throughout Missouri will be showcased in the Third Floor Rotunda of the Missouri State Capitol. Exhibits will be displayed from 7:00 AM until 12:00 noon on March 21, 2002.

Our state legislators, educators, students and others will have the opportunity to see how technology is currently being used in Missouri schools to enhance learning and improve student achievement.

The mission of the Show-Me TechKnowledge Day is to demonstrate to all of our legislators the importance of using technology in educating our children and to demonstrate technology in the classroom. Representatives from various educational groups, businesses and organizations throughout the state are supporters of the Show-Me TechKnowledge Day. Contact Judy Miller at jmiller005@earthlink.net for more information about this year's event.



Want to Use Video, What Next? - Guidance From MOREnet

--Submitted by Eric Nicklas, Program Manager, K-12 Technology Network Program, MOREnet

For K-12 schools that want to make use of existing video capabilities – or for districts that are considering investing in video equipment – MOREnet has compiled a single document “checklist” for its customers: http://www.more.net/video_consulting/newcustomers.html.

While using video for distance learning, virtual field trips and even no-travel meetings has been attractive for awhile, the current budget climate may make it an even more practical decision. Unfortunately, video across the network is not a simple plug and play operation. MOREnet's goal is to help its customers succeed in making a good connection from the backbone to the local district or building network into the classroom or desktop.

Contact MOREnet Technical Support at (800) 509-6673 or techsupp@more.net and explain that you need help with any of these video areas:

- Requirements for video service from MOREnet
- Network connection issues
- Equipment configuration information
- Classroom issues
- Troubleshooting
- Testing
- Videoconferencing

Review the new video checklist but call for clarification or more help. MOREnet's Video Services group and K-12 TNP staff can help make your video experiences successful.



A Nation Online: How Americans Are Expanding Their Use of the Internet

www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/dn/index.html

The Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Economics and Statistics Administration have published *A Nation Online: How Americans Are Expanding Their Use Of The Internet*. Based on the September 2001 U.S. Census

Bureau's Current Population Survey - a survey of approximately 57,000 households and more than 137,000 individuals across the United States -- the report shows the rapidly growing use of new information technologies across all demographic groups and geographic regions. Not only are many more Americans using the Internet and computers at home, they are also using them at work, school, and other locations for an expanding variety of purposes.



Missouri Schools in the News

Blue Springs

Blue Springs School District was featured in the February 2002 edition of T.H.E. Journal. The topic was "Districts Utilize Uplink to Keep Their Technological Edge." To read the entire article, <http://204.29.171.50/framer/1000/default.asp?realname=T%2EH%2EE%2E+Journal&cc=US&lc=en%2DUS&frameid=1565&providerid=112&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Ethejournal%2Ecom%2F>

Crawford Co. R-1

Congratulations to Mrs. Wendy Klenke and her kindergarten class at Crawford Co. R-1 Elementary in Bourbon, Missouri for being selected as the Eduhund Spotlight Classroom of the Week. Check it out at <http://warhawks.k12.mo.us/elem/klenkew>

Clinton Technical School

Janell Allred, a teacher at Clinton Technical School, was recently recognized in The Classroom Flyer Thursday Edition online newsletter for her Web Quest, "So You Want to Own a Business." Working in groups of three, students in grades 9-12 will choose a role as interviewer, market researcher, or accountant, and produce a business plan to propose financing. Assessment strategies suggest actually letting students present their plans to local bankers, practicing cover letters and executive summaries. Check out this professional resource at <http://warrensburg.k12.mo.us/webquest/entre/index.htm>
Congratulations, Janell!

Renick R-V Elementary

Congratulations to Robyn McKeown whose "Great Teaching Idea" selected by SuccessLink, was recently highlighted in The Classroom Flyer Thursday Edition online newsletter. "Show Me The Money" gives middle and high school students real-world budgeting applications with this lesson plan. With checkbooks and fictional paychecks, students must create a monthly plan for paying bills by checks, filling out deposits correctly, and of course spending and saving. Locate this resource at <http://www.successlink.org/great/g710.html>

Arcadia Valley R-II

Steve Cross, Arcadia Valley High School teacher, was recognized for his lesson plan, "In The Red," selected by SuccessLink as a "Great Teaching Idea" in a recent The Classroom Flyer Thursday Edition online newsletter. He invites teachers to survey the students to work in teams and come up with what they feel is a reasonable living allowance for basic monthly expenses before they start the lesson plan. This exercise is often an eye-opener in itself, but students are then given a wage, less taxes, less expenses, and must then plan a workable budget—including a car and gas—and still have money left over. Check out this resource at <http://www.successlink.org/great2/g1680.html> Congratulations, Steve!



Learning With Technology

--Featuring Bolivar R-1, Sullivan C-2 and Boonville R-1

Bolivar R-1

Bolivar R-1 School District is located thirty miles north of Springfield, MO. There are four Bolivar campuses, Primary (K-2), Intermediate (3-5), Middle (6-8) and High School (9-12). The Technology Literacy Challenge Fund grant awarded to the district for the school years of 2000-01 and 2001-02 titled "The Four C's of Technology" has impacted approximately 98 of the district's K-8 teachers and most all K-8 students.

The Four C's of Technology (4 C's) is training Bolivar School District's K-8 teachers to use technology for identifying achievement concerns using Clear Access and integrating technology lessons to address the concern areas identified. The goal of the project is to raise student achievement in the content areas of Communication Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies in the "Above Average" testing range for students, K-8.

After data analysis, teachers review the curriculum and create lessons using the project equipment, software and materials. These Content Coordinators present lessons to their students and in two observing teachers' classrooms within their building. Substitutes are provided for the Content Coordinators to allow teachers the opportunity to observe the technology-integrated lessons. The 4 C's set up a pyramid structure in order to involve the entire buildings' classrooms to have the opportunity to participate in the lessons and observe the acquired technology.

4 C's stands for Coordinating, Computers, Classrooms and Curriculum. The project coordinator, Christie Johnson, has often stated that it should be the 5 C's as Communication/dialogue between building teachers has been most beneficial to the grants' success. This TLCF grant has brought forty-eight new classroom computers (16 per building) into the district. A mobile "Presentation Center" has been set up for each of the three participating buildings (primary, K-2; Intermediate, 3-5 and Middle, 6-8). The project has offered Professional Development technology training on equipment and project materials, which has directly impacted student learning with consistent technology applications.

One premise of *The 4 C's* was to select software and related materials that are consistent throughout all grade levels. Kidspiration(K-2) and Inspiration(3-up) was purchased for all participants due to the program(s) versatility to all subject areas. It is intended that students will become literate users of the software and the application to content areas will be expanded as opposed to having to learn different programs and then apply them to a content area. It has been rewarding to observe students become experts at orienting the board and then participating in technology integrated lessons with rich content. Another reward has been teacher excitement as they learn to apply the technology equipment and materials to their lessons.

It is felt that this TLCF project has made a huge impact towards integrating technology in the classroom. All teachers now want SmartBoards, and although that isn't likely, there is discussion about how these needs can be met. The Bolivar Intermediate and Middle School teachers were so impressed with the software Author's Toolkit"(Sunburst) that they wrote a local grant and used summer school classes as means to obtain site (BIS) and additional (BMS) licenses. Discussion has also been generated that there is a need for ALL district teachers (District License) to have the Inspiration software as well.

Grant coordinators have participated in many opportunities to share *The 4 C's* project as a model. Presentations sharing this grant project have been made at district PD workshops, community organization meetings, an SMSU Eisenhower Technology Class, MOREnet's Technology Conference, Area Administrator's meeting and MCTM's conference in December.

A partnership with Duck Creek Technology (local business) assisted grant participants in web page training using Front Page. Additional information about *The Four C's of Technology* and a link to the original application and year one summary of the grant may be found at <http://www.bolivar-r1.k12.mo.us/tlcf/>. The grant coordinator plans to add a lesson plan link this

summer and will update year two data as it becomes available. For additional information about the grant, inquiries may be made to Christie Johnson, grant coordinator at johnsoch@bolivar-r1.k12.mo.us.

Sullivan C-2

Project MAP-Making Achievement Possible

Harnessing powerful technologies and using them together to improve education is the focus behind the Technology Literacy Grant, Project MAP-Making Achievement Possible, for the Sullivan School District. The electronic medium of the television, VCR, and the computer used together can link the school to the home. This grant will integrate these technologies to increase student achievement and parental support to meet the educational goals of the district.

Two district schools are participating in the grant program, the Sullivan Elementary School and the Sullivan Middle School. These schools house over 1100 students from grades 2-8. The grant also involves students from the two high school video-production classes and a middle school Creative Media Class.

Teachers in the program are provided a computer and SmartBoard-Projector setup in their classrooms. These tools will give the teachers the opportunity to use presentations and technology as an integral part of their curriculum. The teachers are trained to develop PowerPoint presentations, web sites, and develop ways to use technology to meet their classroom curriculum objectives. The teachers each are developing a method of determining the effectiveness of technology's use in their classroom.

Once the teachers are proficient in using the technology in the classroom, they develop a tape that can be shared with the home. The tape is geared toward home use and discusses their classroom goals, and ways parents can help their child to achieve in their classroom. PowerPoints are also included as part of the tape. The teachers and the video-editing students work together to develop a tape that can be viewed in the classroom, and the tape can also be shown on the local cable channel.

Not only can the information be shared on tape, but it is also posted online. The district web servers become a way to daily share classroom information, assignments, PowerPoints and other helpful information. One good example of using technology is [Laura Friz's](#) 8th grade math classroom. She keeps her weekly assignments online and also uses the website as a vehicle for [PowerPoints](#) that explain various concepts in her classroom. The students develop the PowerPoints as a way to reinforce those skills and also have them available to other students to view. These PowerPoints can then be converted to video and checked out for home use.

The teachers involved in the first year of the grant have stated that using the SmartBoard, Projector, VCR, and Computer in the classroom have definitely made a positive difference in their classrooms. The computer can then become a working tool that can be used in many aspects of their curriculum, and also link information to the students' homes. For more information on this grant, please contact Karen Largent at karenl@eagles.k12.mo.us.

Boonville R-1

The Boonville R-1 School District's Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grant was written to provide the necessary infrastructure to students in grades 6-8 for the purpose of acquiring research and information skills across the curriculum. In addition, the infrastructure would allow the middle school teachers to help middle school students improve scores on the MAP test.

This project is being accomplished in three phases in two school years. The first phase included putting a computer in every middle school teacher's classroom. The middle school building was incapable of supporting the wiring necessary for computers until a bond issue was passed to renovate the structure. When the renovation was complete, the TLCF grant was written to cover

the computers that were excluded from the plans because of construction cost overruns. The second phase involved teacher training to use the Internet and provide support in the development of classroom application activities pertinent to the subject(s) being taught. The third phase furnished a computer lab that would allow a class size group of students to use technology for research, projects/papers, enrichment and remediation activities. Year two also focused on higher levels of teacher training and additional follow up and support to help teachers use technology to enhance the instructional process.

The TLCF grant helped move the teacher's skills into the 21st century. This has enabled middle school students to acquire needed technology skills for the high school classes because teachers can now reinforce computer skills across the curriculum. Teachers are using computer aided performance projects to help students acquire MAP test taking skills. Carefully selected software has helped motivate students to learn. For more information contact Joyce Schuster at jschuster@boonville.k12.mo.us



Interactive Distance Learning in Action

The Current River I-TV consortium started with four southeast Missouri schools, Winona, Summersville, Eminence and Van Buren, sharing coursework to provide their high school students with a more comprehensive list of offerings. Last year, an equipment upgrade for Current River and the larger Mineral Area College consortium (MAC) made it possible for all of the member organizations to receive classes from each other, and from providers across the state over the MOREnet backbone. The Current River I-TV consortium added foreign language and other higher-level offerings; some negotiated through GreaterNET. This year's Spanish class is brought in from UMKC. The consortium also offers a Masters Program in Special Education to teachers in the area via a hook up from the University of Missouri – St. Louis.

As Director John Rain puts it, "This is a very very exciting time for us. We are always looking to expand course offerings for our students, and are excited about being able to offer higher education and continuing education courses for our area teachers."

With all the changes coming about in Distance Learning in Missouri, John feels it is important to make it easier to connect potential classes and teachers to students looking for that content. With an increase in offerings comes the need for professional development opportunities for I-TV teachers at the state level. Current River I-TV believes in staying "current."

For more information about the Current River I-TV consortium, please contact John Rain at jnrain@winona.k12.mo.us



Professional Development Tip of the Month

Technology in the Canton R-V School District is recognized as a valuable tool to assist students in achieving essential skills and competencies to become productive members of the workforce and lifelong learners. This tool extends educational opportunities by empowering teachers and learners to explore new avenues of learning. However, providing technology and support for teachers so that they may become efficient at using the technology available within the district is a challenging goal!

We have used many ideas to stimulate interest in professional development for technology. Some of those ideas worked for us, others did not. Here are a few that have proven to be successful.

1. Reimburse teachers at the district rate to attend training.

2. Include paraprofessionals in the technology training. This is important, as they are often the ones who actually implement the instruction for some students.
3. Develop a technology competency rating for teachers and give priority for new equipment to those who are attending training sessions to improve their level of competency.
4. Give priority for new equipment to teachers who consistently **use** technology in the classroom.
5. Offer training as an incentive, not a requirement (except for initial training for new staff). Teachers have too much on their plates now--it has to be for those who want and need to use it. Create a situation where the teachers perceive the training as a need, rather than a nuisance.
6. Approach in-service in a different way than you have traditionally offered when attendance at training opportunities dwindles, due to familiarity with computers or other "unknown" reasons. For instance:
 - a. Convene small group sessions for individuals or teams and assist them in designing and completing specific projects for their classrooms.
 - b. Hold sessions for developing multi-media presentations with teachers who have lesson plans or projects due.
 - c. Have teachers bring project ideas to an in-service/training session where the instructor (we use Culver-Stockton College) helps participants design and complete a PowerPoint presentation (for instance). This would also work for grading (data base and spreadsheet) and file-sharing. At Canton we were able to involve more people using this idea. The proverbial carrot was, of course, the completed project to take back and use in the classroom.
7. Tie the training to Career Ladder.
8. Offer the training at different times during the day or week--the key is providing teachers with options. It is most often offered after school, but it can also be done during conference times, with no stipend attached. Remember that it is important to meet the needs of the teacher, in order to make the training a successful endeavor! We have also offered Saturday morning and afternoon classes with grant \$\$, paying each staff member \$100 to learn how to use the mobile lab. The district provides snacks and everyone works together in the media center lab. **Food, Fun, and Fortune**...incentives that can't be beat☺

As our school grows and changes, we strive to continue to provide creative and innovative programs to stimulate interest and keep current and well informed of the proper learning conditions necessary to keep technology integrated into the curriculum. As stated in The Show-Me Technology Plan, "Technology can help teachers accommodate the learning and presentation styles of each student, keep students on task, provide individualized assistance, and support students who must be absent from classes...it enhances education in three important areas: teaching, learning and doing."

For more information contact Ann Hammer, Special Programs Director, Canton R-V School District, at ahammer@canton.k12.mo.us



Copyright Question of the Month

Q. May an educator (e.g., administrator, classroom teacher, substitute teacher, or student teacher) other district employee, volunteer, or others upload copyrighted software to the Internet for downloading by others?

A. No. The software is copyrighted therefore it may not be made available to other unlicensed users.



METPA

--Submitted by Judy Manhattan, METPA treasurer

Several of the previous METPA articles in Newsline talked of the early days of technology in Missouri. I too am one of those early pioneers of technology. My district started with Apple II's and Franklins (Apple clones) and had one of the few networked Apple II labs in the mid 80's. Our idea of technology education was to teach BASIC programming and maybe a little word processing. Boy, have times changed! The emphasis is now where it belongs, using technology as a tool to improve instruction and to meet the needs of the students and their various learning styles.

METPA would like to applaud the efforts to initiate the Show-Me TechKnowledge Day. This is to showcase technology projects across the state. It will be held at the Capital Rotunda on March 21. It is vital to provide information about the accomplishments in the state involving technology. In these times of limited funds, it is necessary to demonstrate the money being provided is making a difference in instruction throughout the state.

In keeping with the endeavor to promote technology throughout the state, METPA has established the METPA Technology Leadership Awards. The two awards recognized are Best Practices in Technology Professional Development and Best District or School Web Site. Details of these awards will be made available at the MOREnet Spring Technology Conference, March 21-22. Information will also be available through Newsline and the METPA listserv. Be thinking of a district to nominate for these awards.

METPA will continue the spring forum series that began last year. Two forums are planned-- one dealing with technology funding and a second one on copyright issues. These forums are planned for April and May. Exact details will again be provided through Newsline and the METPA listserv.

METPA will have a table near the registration desk at the MOREnet Spring Technology Conference. If you are interested in finding out more about METPA or joining, stop by and visit with us. If you are not attending the conference, you can contact METPA at:

METPA
200 Madison Street
Suite 280, PMB 103
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Or contact me directly at the information below.

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Mark Your Calendar

March

1	Newsline published online
8	VIDEO Advisory Meeting (10:00-2:00 p.m.) SuccessLink, Jefferson City, MO
14	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 p.m.) Governor's Office Building—Room 316, Jefferson City, MO

20	Second payment of approved year two TLCF and TAG grants
21	Show-Me TechKnowledge Day (7:00-12 noon) Third Floor Capitol Rotunda, Jefferson City, MO
25	Newsline articles due
31	Last day to obligate funds for materials, supplies and capital outlay (TAG, VIDEO and IDL Grants)
April	
1	District Technology Plans Due for State Approval
1	Newsline published online
11	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 p.m.) Governor's Office Building—Room 316, Jefferson City, MO
19	Reading of District Technology Plans for State Approval
25	Newsline articles due Coming in April: METPA Forum on Technology Funding

Upcoming 2002 Conferences

March 5-6	Annual Technology Conference University Plaza Hotel, Springfield RCET-SW
March 6-8	Florida Educational Technology Conference Orlando, Florida www.fetc.org/fetc2002
March 9-11	ASCD's 57 th Annual Conference & Exhibit San Antonio, Texas www.ascd.org/trainingopportunities/conferences/2002ac.html
March 10-12	Annual Virginia Society for Technology in Education State Conference Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center; Dr. Daniel Arkin; www.vste.org/conferences/index.html
March 21-22	MOREnet Spring Technical Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO Missouri Research and Education Network
April 5-9	National Association of Elementary School Principals Annual Convention San Antonio, Texas www.naesp.org
April 6-9	National School Boards Association Annual Convention New Orleans, LA www.nsba.org/conferences/
April 8-12	U.S. Distance Learning Association E-Learning Conference Washington, D.C. www.usdla.org
April 14-16	Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL) Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO
April 14-16	Distance Education and Training Council Annual Conference Denver, Colorado www.detc.org
April 14-17	National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators Annual Conference Arlington, Virginia www.nafepa.org
April 24-25	HELIX Conference

	Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO
	MERC (Missouri Education & Research Consortium)
	HELIX (Higher Ed Learning & Information Exchange Conference)
June 17-19	Teaching and Learning Conference
	Holiday Inn Select, Columbia, MO
June 17-19	NECC 2002: Nexus in Texas
	San Antonio, Texas
	http://www.neccsite.org
October 6-8	Missouri Educational Technology Conference
	Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO
	Missouri Research and Education Network
	Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
October 13-15	Joint Iowa ASCD ITEC Conference
	Des Moines, IA
	www.itec-ia.org

From the Mailbag

BLE Group/SuperTECH NEWS

<http://www.blegroup.com>

SuperTECH NEWS is the monthly newsletter of the BLE Group's CIO-Time Share service, which has created a new business venture to address emerging issues that threaten to create a digital divide between under-resourced small schools and bigger districts that are technology rich. CIO Time Share has a comprehensive menu of technology services for small districts, including the newsletter called "Super TECH NEWS," audits of districts' technology capacity, quarterly plans for technology tasks, assistance in getting the best eRates, regional seminars for superintendents, discounts on hardware, vendor management, and other services.

Several factors contribute to the problems of the 86% of the American school districts considered small because they have fewer than 5,000 students. Most of these districts cannot afford the salaries that CIO's command, and if they could, most of these directors last only about a year before joining the private sector. Technology vendors and publishers, who have valuable knowledge to share, spend their time with the more lucrative large school districts. Budget constraints in some smaller districts have resulted in more limited professional development. Also, smaller districts lack the clout to get discounted pricing on technology.

CIO-Time Share offers solutions to these issues. They provide districts with personnel to provide education decision makers with concise information that allows them to make informed technology decisions to impact instruction, management and communication. For more information contact Eliot Levinson, CEO, at 703-437-0481.

More Than 50 Percent Of U.S. On Internet

<http://www.cnn.com>

More than half of American households and more than half of all Americans are not connected to the Internet, according to a commerce department study. The figures were part of "A Nation Online," a new study using census data to track Internet usage in the United States. As of September 2001, 143 million Americans, or about 54 percent of the population, were using the Internet, and new users were adopting the technology at a rate of more than two million per month. The report says 90 percent, or 47.4 million, of children between the ages of 5 and 17 now use computers at home and at school. Seventy-five percent of 14 to 17 year olds and 65 percent of 10 to 13 year olds use the Internet. Households with children younger than 18 are more likely to access the Internet than households with no children.

CyberEd

<http://www.cybered.net>

CyberEd, an award winning educational software firm located in scenic northern California, produces 54 different interactive multimedia courseware titles for use in high school biology and chemistry instruction. CyberEd products have many features built in to the courseware to help the novice science learner or teacher master the content. These features include an intuitive user interface that is common to all 54 titles; a “jump menu” that easily allows the learner or teacher to navigate to the topic of interest; a glossary feature, that not only defines the word, but pronounces it as well; and carefully explained and meticulously labeled diagrams and animations that help students understand the dynamic processes of science.

In terms of assessment, each courseware title also provides interactive feedback to the learners of their understanding of the material, in the form of interactive tutorials and pre and post tests. The interactive tutorials review the information covered by the courseware, while the pre and post tests can form part of a student’s formative or summative assessment.

There are a number of different ways to use CyberEd products in the classroom. Teachers with access to only one computer use the courseware primarily for lecture enhancement, often in conjunction with a projection device or TV attached to the computer. However, even with few computer resources, the courseware can be used to meet more individualized student instructional needs. Examples of this use include enrichment of advanced students, an alternate instruction technique for mastery learning situations, and/or for extra instruction of ELP students or those students who have missed classes. Access to more computers can add even more flexibility to the manner in which you use the courseware. Some teachers use the products as lecture replacements allowing the students to work either individually or in small groups in a self-paced manner.

CyberEd is now producing on-line versions of their courseware as well as a teacher support website to compliment this new format. In addition to the features already described, the on-line products will also provide teachers the ability to track and report their student’s progress and test scores. The support website will provide: student study guides written to address state and national education standards; listings of other technology-based resources that support the science curriculum, such as microcomputer based labs and simulations; teacher discussions and collaboration opportunities mentoring network for teachers using CyberEd products and other technology based learning tools; and an assignment database that allows teachers to share their effective classroom activities.

Not sure which titles to buy or where to find them? The CyberEd titles are correlated to Missouri state standards, and the correlations along with a complete listing of the courseware titles are available on their web site found at <http://www.cybered.net> For more information on using CyberEd software in your classroom contact Dean Eichorn at deichorn@cyber-ed.com.



Internet Sites of Interest

Earth Day Groceries Project

<http://www.earthdaybags.org>

A free environmental education activity where students are empowered as educators in their communities. Now in its ninth year, the Earth Day Groceries Project is one of the largest and oldest educational projects coordinated on the Internet. The project web site has complete information on participation, thousands of inspirational reports, and hundreds of beautiful pictures. Last year over a million pieces of art, carefully created on grocery bags, were given away by children who cared about their earth.

Math Mayhem

<http://www.learningplanet.com/act/mayhem/index.htm>

The students compete with each other and online against other students to do math facts in 60 seconds. The students can add, subtract, multiply, or divide.

Math Tutorial

<http://www.ceres.k12.ca.us/iweb/lessons/Monica's%20Math/monica.htm>

Tutorials for introducing or reinforcing math concepts.

Nutrition

<http://www.doe.state.la.us/DOE/asps/home.asp?l=JAZZY>

LA Division of Nutrition Assistance Web Page includes bulletin board ideas and much more.

Benton/Bingham Paintings

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000601.html>

Sites include pictures and descriptions of Thomas Hart Benton and George Caleb Bingham's famous paintings such as the one at the Capitol building, Truman Library, Order 11, the election ones, and the river/fur trading ones.

Subject Related Resource Sites

Math Forum

<http://mathforum.org/>

Science Learning Network

<http://www.sln.org/>

Social Studies Education Network

<http://projects.scrtec.org/~soess>

US News Classroom

<http://www.usnewsclassroom.com/>

PE Central

<http://pecentral.org>

Web English Teacher

<http://www.webenglishteacher.com/>

SERI-special Education Resources on the Internet

<http://www.seriweb.com/>

Art Education and ArtEdventures

<http://www.sanford-artedventures.com/>

Children's Music Web

<http://www.childrensmusic.org/>

NetDay Compass: Technology Resources

<http://www.netdaycompass.org/>

Reading

American Library Association (ALA)

<http://www.ala.org>

Dr. Seuss's Seussville

<http://www.randomhouse.com/seussville/>

Children's Authors & Illustrators on the Web

<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/authors.html>

teachers@random
<http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/>

Fun And Free Things To Do On The Internet
Explore and Enjoy

<http://spacekids.hq.nasa.gov/2003/>

NASA invites you to send your name to Mars on the next Mars Exploration Rover—2003 mission!

Animal Search

<http://animalsearch.net/>

A family-safe search engine for animal related web sites.

EyeTricks.com

<http://www.eyetricks.com/3dstereo.htm>

3D images hidden within other pictures.

Thinks.com Crossword Central

<http://thinks.com/crosswords/crosswords.htm>

Daily crossword puzzles, cryptic crosswords, crossword variants.

Doodles.com

<http://www.doodles.com>

It's this scribble a friend makes up. It doesn't look like anything but you have to guess what it is.